What is claimed is:

1. A method of negotiated distribution of cache content, comprising steps of:

selecting candidate content for distribution to a cache store; and

sending, to the cache store, a request message that describes the candidate content.

2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising steps of:

receiving a response message from the cache store, indicating whether the cache store accepts or rejects the candidate content; and

distributing the candidate content to the cache store only if the response message indicates that the cache store accepts the candidate content.

3. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

distributing the candidate content to the cache store only if a response message received from the cache store indicates that the cache store accepts the candidate content.

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step further comprises analyzing historical metrics to identify the candidate content.

5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the historical metrics represent content requested over a period of time.

6. The method according to Claim1, wherein the request message describes the candidate

content's size.

7. The method according to Claim1, wherein the request message describes the candidate content's type.

8. The method according to Claim1, wherein the request message describes a security classification of the candidate content.

9. The method according to Claim1, wherein the request message describes a hit rate of the candidate content.

10. The method according to Claim1, wherein the selecting and sending steps are performed at a Web server.

11. The method according to Claim1, wherein the cache store is selected using historical metrics.

12. The method according to Claim1, wherein the candidate content is selected for distribution to a plurality of cache stores, and wherein the sending step sends the request message to each of the plurality of cache stores.

13. The method according to Claim2, further comprising the steps of:

selecting, when the response message indicates that the cache store rejects the candidate content, an alternative cache store; and

sending the request message to the alternative cache store.

14. The method according to Claim1, wherein the request message is encoded in a structured markup language.

15. The method according to Claim14, wherein the structured markup language is Extensible Markup Language ("XML").

16. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the request message includes an identifier and wherein this identifier is also included in the response message.

17. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the distributing step uses the identifier to locate the candidate content to be distributed.

18. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the candidate content comprises a plurality of files to be distributed as a unit.

19. A system for negotiated distribution of cache content, comprising:

means for selecting candidate content for distribution to a cache store;

means for sending, to the cache store, a request message that describes the candidate

content; and

means for distributing the candidate content to the cache store only if a response message received from the cache store indicates that the cache store accepts the candidate content.

20. A computer program product for negotiated distribution of cache content, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for selecting candidate content for distribution to a cache store;

computer-readable program code means for sending, to the cache store, a request message that describes the candidate content; and

computer-readable program code means for distributing the candidate content to the cache store only if a response message received from the cache store indicates that the cache store accepts the candidate content.